



TALKING POINTS: 9/11 Commission Recommendations

OUR PRINCIPLE: *There is no greater responsibility our government has to the American people than national security. Republicans are committed to fighting and winning the global war on terror. With respect to the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission, Republicans acted swiftly in implementing 39 of the 41 recommendations that we believe make Americans safer.*

To the extent that some of the recommendations were not acted on, it is because they were either counterproductive or outright dangerous toward the larger goal of making Americans safer.

We repudiate the attempts that some have made to politicize the Commission's recommendations for short-term gain. It is reprehensible that some have used the Commission's recommendations as a vehicle to make empty, even dangerous promises that would have jeopardized national security – particularly when they had no intentions of keeping those promises.

Republicans remain committed to fighting and winning the Global War on Terror. The GOP has moved aggressively to ensure that the nation's military and intelligence community have the resources they need to win the War on Terror. In the five-and-a-half years since 9/11, there have been no domestic acts of terrorism.

- House Republicans have moved on principle to enact 39 of the bipartisan, independent 9/11 Commission's 41 recommendations. (*House Republican Conference*, 10/27/06)
- In 2004, Congress passed a bill to improve and speed the intelligence gathering critical in a post-9/11 world, including the creation of the National Intelligence Director office and the National Counterterrorism Center, both major commission recommendations. (*Roll Call Vote# 544*, 12/7/04)

Democrats are already breaking promises on security. Democrat leaders in closed-door meetings opted to break their promises to implement all of the 9/11 Commission's recommendations. They have reneged on both the promise to make intelligence budgets public, and to shift covert operations from the CIA to the Department of Defense.

- Instead of acting on principle, Democrats promised full implementation of commission recommendations. They now have no intention of keeping their promise. We don't fault them for arriving at the same conclusions we did, but we hold them accountable for promising one thing to the American people, and doing the opposite.

Internal disagreements are hampering Democrat leadership on intelligence. The disconnect between Democrats' rhetoric and their ability to produce results is being fueled by petty differences and grievous ethical lapses.

- Pelosi ruled out Jane Harman as Chair of the Intelligence Committee not on the basis of qualifications, but because of her inability to work with her home state colleague. Harman was passed over by Pelosi in a decision "pregnant with personal animus." (*Washington Post*, 11/13/06)
- Speaker-designate Pelosi was then forced to bypass the next ranking Democrat, Rep. Alcee Hastings, because of ethics problems relating to his impeachment as a federal judge.